

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /079 W

----- 115150

R 302226Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8680

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0403

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CA, CU

SUBJ: MORE ON CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S
VISIT TO CUBA

REF: OTTAWA 0374

SUMMARY: PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT TRUDEAU VISIT TO CUBA
WITH EMPHASIS ON PROSPECTS FOR US-CUBAN DETENTE, CUBAN
INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, AND CANADIAN-CUBAN RELATIONS.
PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISM OF TIMING OF VISIT AND
OF TRUDEAU'S "VIVA CASTRO" SPEECH ALSO CONTINUES
END SUMMARY.

1. DESPITE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S DEPARTURE FROM CUBA,
PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT EVENTS AND REACTIONS. NEWS-
PAPERS ON JAN 30 PRINTED SEVERAL INTERESTING REPORTS
ON PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WHICH OCCURRED BETWEEN TRUDEAU
AND CASTRO. THESE DEALT WITH AT LEAST THREE TOPICS OF
INTEREST.

A. CUBA-US RELATIONS: ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS
ACCOUNT "MR. CASTRO TOLD MR. TRUDEAU HE HOPED THAT,
IN TIME, THE US WOULD HAVE AS MUCH CONFIDENCE IN CUBA
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AS IT HAS IN CANADA, BUT HE DID NOT HOLD OUT ANY HIGH

HOPE FOR QUICK DETENTE. HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION, WITHOUT ACTUALLY SAYING SO, THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER WASHINGTON WOULD MAKE ANY OVERTURES AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER. (THE CUBAN POSITION IS VERY FIRMLY THAT THE INITIATIVE MUST COME FROM THE UNITED STATES)."

B. ANGOLA: APPARENTLY TRUDEAU AND HIS PARTY WERE CONSIDERABLY IMPRESSED BY CASTRO'S "SURPRISINGLY FIRM GRASP OF WORLD AFFAIRS." TRUDEAU TOLD REPORTS THAT HE STILL OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA BUT THAT HE CAME OUT OF HIS TALKS WITH THE CUBAN LEADER "WITH A MUCH GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION AS SEEN BY DR. CASTRO." CASTRO REPORTEDLY TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE ON JAN 28 THAT "HE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SUPPORT THE SOVIET-BACKED POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA) AFTER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION OF ANGOLA LAST OCTOBER." TRUDEAU DESCRIBED CASTRO AS EXTREMELY WELL INFORMED ON AFRICA. APPARENTLY THE TWO MEN "AGREED TO DISAGREE" ON ANGOLA; IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT "FORCEFULLY AND AT LENGTH" TRUDEAU MADE CLEAR THAT CUBAN INTERVENTION IS CONSIDERED INCONSISTENT WITH CASTRO'S STATED POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION BY OUTSIDERS IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. CASTRO'S REPLY WAS THE MPLA IS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND CUBA'S RESPONSE TO CALL FOR HELP DID NOT CONSTITUTE INTERVENTION.

C. CANADIAN-CUBAN RELATIONS: TRUDEAU TOLD THE PRESS THAT CANADA HOPES TO "SPEED UP" RELATIONS WITH CUBA. WHILE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT CUBAN TRADE WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS BECAUSE OF THE SLUMP IN SUGAR PRICES, CANADIAN OFFICIALS APPARENTLY DID EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN THAT CANADA'S POSITION IN THE CUBAN MARKET MIGHT SUFFER WHEN -- AS IS REGARDED AS INEVITABLE -- WASHINGTON RESUMES NORMAL RELATIONS WITH HAVANA. CUBANS REPEATEDLY REASSURED THE CANADIANS ON THIS POINT; ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT THE CANADIANS "FOUND A GENUINE FRIENDSHIP TOWARD CANADA. THE FACT THAT CANADA DID NOT BREAK DIPLOMATIC RE-

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LATIONS WITH CUBA FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTION OF 1959... MAY NOT SEEM TERRIBLY SIGNIFICANT IN CANADA, BUT IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO CUBANS. AND IT'S MONEY IN THE BANK."

MEANWHILE REACTIONS TO TRUDEAU'S VISIT AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN CUBA CONTINUE TO BE THE POINT THAT TRUDEAU WAS ASKED "WHETHER HIS TALKS WITH THE CUBAN LEADER

WOULD PORTRARY CANADA AS ANTI-AMERICAN." TRUDEAU REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SOME CANADIANS AND AMERICANS MAY FEEL HE IS TAKING CANADA TOO FAR ALONG A PATH THEY DO NOT APPROVED "BUT A SHORT TIME AFTER I WENT TO PEKING, PRESIDENT NIXON ALSO WENT TO CHINA AND A SHORT TIME AFTER I WENT TO MOSCOW HE WENT THERE TOO." BOTH THE US AND CUBA WERE INTERESTED IN BETTER RELATIONS. WHILE BASIC IDEOLOGIES HAD NOT CHANGED BECAUSE OF HIS VISIT, "CUBA IS A REALITY THAT HAS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS I AM SURE THE U.S. DOES."

CRITICS HAVE NOT BEEN MOLLIFIED. TOM COSSETT, CONSERVATIVE PARTY OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF TRUDEAU, PROTESTED STRENOUSLY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TRUDEAU'S "VIVA FIDEL CASTRO" SPEECH IN CUBA. COSSITT DESCRIBED IT AS "DEPLORABLE, DEGRADING AND DISGUSTING..." WHILE COSSITT DESCRIBED TRUDEAU'S REMARKS AS "VERY BAD JUDGMENT" CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER ROBERT STANFIELD SAID HE COULD SEE NOTHINGWRONG WITH THE WAY TRUDDEAU ACTED: "I THINK THAT WHEN ONE IS IN ROME YOU DO WHAT THE ROMANS DO."

OTTAWA JOURNAL ON JAN 29 PUBLISHED A LENGHTY EDITORIAL ENTITLED "MR. TRUDEAU IN CUBA: WITH NO COMPENSATING GAIN." EDITORIAL STATES THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO A TRIP TO CUBA AND THAT SUCH A VISIT DID NOT CONSTITUTE ANY ENDORSEMENT OF THAT GOVERNMENT; THE PROBLEM WAS THE TIMING OF THE VISIT. JOURNAL SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE DECISION TO GO TO CUBA "AT THE MOMENT OF CUBA'S MISCHIEVOUS, CYNICAL INTRUSION INTO ANGOLAN AFFAIRS...MR. TRUDEAU GIVES MR. CASTRO A TINGE OF RESPECTABILITY AT A TIME WHEN HIS FOREIGN POLICIES SHOULD BE CONDEMNED. MR. TRUDEAU ALLOWS MR. CASTRO UNCLASSIFIED

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TO TRADE ON CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL CREDIBILITY. THAT IS WHY MR. CASTRO WAS SO READY TO THANK THE PRIME MINISTER FOR GOING AHEAD WITH HIS VISIT. HE HAD EVERY CAUSE TO BE GREATEFUL." EDITORIAL GOES ON TO COMMENT ABOUT UNEQUAL JUDGEMENTS: "THE CURIOUS THING ABOUT MR. TRUDEAU AND SO MANY LIKE-MINDED LIBERALS IS WHY THEY ARE SO MUCH MORE WILLING TO TOLERATE AGGRESSION OR REPRESSION BY LEFT-WING GOVERNMENTS THAN BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE RIGHT--TO USE THAT UNSATISFACTORY AND ABUSED IDOLOGICAL SHORTHAND." JOURNAL GOES ON TO DOUBT TRUDEAU WOULD VISIT CHILE OR SOUTH AFRICA IF SITUATIONS WERE REVERSED. "THE CUBAN BUSINESS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF DOUBLE STANDARDS OF MR. TRUDEAU'S TRENDY INERNATIONALISM. CUBA IS 'IN'...CHILE IS OUT. CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY, DESIGNED BY MR. TRUDEAU AS

DISTINCT FROM EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, IS AN AMORPHOUSE
BLEND OF NAIVE IDEALISM AND GLIB PLATITUDES." JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA00403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0587
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976015/aaaaadjv.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 374
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <22 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ON CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S VISIT TO CUBA
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CA, CU, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE ELLIOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006